

**HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM QUALITY REVIEW
OCONEE COUNTY DSS
AUGUST 2002**

The South Carolina Department of Social Services (Human Services Division) conducted a qualitative review of Oconee County DSS beginning August 26, 2002. The review was conducted on site, and consisted of case record reviews, staff interviews, client contacts, and external stakeholder interviews. In this review, the external stakeholders interviewed were foster parents, the Guardian ad litem, Behavioral Health Services, Therapeutic Counseling Center, Therapeutic Family Services, Mental Health and the Administrative Family Court Judge.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SAMPLE INFORMATION

Program under review	Referrals Not Accepted As CPS Reports	CPS Invest.	CPS Treat. Active	CPS Treat. Closed	Foster Care - Active	Foster Care - Closed	FHL	MTS	Adopt.
Period Under Review	4/01/02 - 6/30/02	6/30/02	6/30/02	4/01/02 - 6/30/02	6/30/02	6/30/02	6/30/02	6/30/02	6/30/02
Case Population for Period Under Review	53	101	140	19	141	19	42	0	8
Cases Reviewed	10	5	10	4	9	2	6	0	5

The Measures and Output section of this report is based on the Child Welfare Outcome Measures Report - June 2002 capturing information off the CAPSS system.

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MEASURES AND OUTPUTS**

Outcome 1: Increase permanency for children in Foster Care (Safe and Stable Home for Every Child)

Measure	Source	County		State	
		#	%	#	%
Total Children in Care	CAPSS	125	100%	4993	100%
Children in care more than 12 months	CAPSS	72	57.60%	3110	62.29%
In care more than 12 months where permanency hearing has not been held	CAPSS	0	N/A	823	26.46%
Children in care for whom permanency plan has not been achieved within 3/6 months after permanency planning hearing	CAPSS	Report under development			

Summary: Oconee DSS has the structure in place to enable achievement of this outcome.

Outcome 2: Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption

Measure	County		State	
	#	Months	#	Months
Average number of months in foster care until adoption is final	0	N/A	293	49.06
Average number of days/months in foster care after permanency planning hearing approves a plan of TPR or adoption for the child	Report under development			
Average number of days/months in foster care after TPR is granted	Report under development			

Summary: Not applicable to this county.

Outcome 3: Improve Child Well-Being

10/13/02

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Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Number and percentage of children and adolescents attending school and performing: passing grades, maintaining grade level, school readiness (1 st), truancy, suspensions/expulsions, literacy, diploma/GED, secondary education	In the cases reviewed where Foster Children were in school, we found that all were on grade level, and not exhibiting attendance or behavior problems.			
Number and percentage of children and adolescents who show physical and mental health is stable or improving (therapy, screenings)	In the 9 cases reviewed, we found that all children identified with mental health or adjustment issues were actively receiving therapy or counseling.			
Number and percentage of children with substance abuse are stable or improving	In the 9 cases reviewed, we found that no children were identified with substance abuse issues.			
Number and percentage of runaways	2	100%	107	100%
Number and percentage who age out of foster care and failed to meet goals	Report under development			
Number and percentage who become pregnant	From case file review and caseworker interviews, we noted no cases of pregnancy or fatherhood.			
Number and percentage who are adjudicated for delinquency: once, more than once.	In the 9 cases reviewed, we found no children currently involved with delinquency issues.			

Summary: Based on case reviews, children in foster care in Oconee are generally not experiencing problems with school, behavior, or substance abuse.

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Outcome 4: Reduce Time in Foster Care to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Number and percentage of children who show physical and mental health stability and/or improvement	Based on our review of 9 Foster Care cases and caseworker interviews, all children were either receiving counseling or in a supportive placement which stabilized any physical or mental health conditions.			
Number and percentage of parents with substance abuse who are stable and/or improving	Report under development			
Average number of family/relative visits per child per month (parents, other relatives)	In the Foster Care cases where visitation was a part of the case plan, we noted an average of 2 visits per child per month from family or relatives.			
Number of children who return to foster care after reunification within 12 months	3	100%	24	10.08%

Summary: Our case review indicated that visitation occurred on a regular and planned basis.

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Outcome 5: Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (Federal Requirements)

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Percentage of children age 12 years and below placed in group homes or institutions	Report under development			

Summary: Report under development however by case review and staff interviews it is felt Oconee DSS is taking the age of the child into consideration when arranging placements, by considering the availability of individual foster homes first.

Outcome 6: Reduce/Prevent Abuse of Children in Foster Care

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Number of children in foster care with substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff person	0	0.00%	98	100%

Summary: Oconee DSS has regular telephone and face-to-face contacts with foster parents by staff. The topics discussed are clearly documented. Visits with foster children are also clearly documenting an ongoing assessment of the child's safety.

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Outcome 7: Increase Stability of Placements and Other Aspects of Foster Children's Lives

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Percentage of children in foster care with more than two placements	18	14.40%	702	14.06%

Summary: The majority of cases we reviewed had between 0 and 2 placements. The reasons for changing placements were documented clearly in the record, primarily moving siblings to joint placements.

Outcome 8: Increase Stability of Children's Lives

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Percentage of children who change schools/schools systems:	Of the children in Foster Care who are attending school:			
Once	Two (2) had changed school once as the result of placement			
More than once	None had changed school more than once as the result of placements.			
Percentage of cases with more than one change in foster care case workers	Of the 9 cases reviewed, 2 had more than one change in foster care caseworkers.			

Summary: The documentation in the files reviewed did not directly address changes in schools or school districts, but review staff were able to determine from dictation those changes in schools that were recorded.

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Outcome 9: Reduce/Prevent Abuse and Neglect of Children

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Number and percentage of indicated cases of child abuse and/or neglect:	8	61.54%	516	36.96%
Total				
Among high-risk populations	Report under development			
Number of fatalities among children known to the agency	0	N/A	9	.11%

Summary: Oconee DSS has regular staffing procedures in place to address effective case decision-making. As stated before, an ongoing assessment of child safety in active CPS Treatment and Foster Care cases is not clearly documented.

Outcome 10: Reduce/Prevent Recurrence of Child Abuse and Neglect

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Number and percentage of cases of children with 2 nd indicated report within 12 months of the 1 st indicated report	Report under development			
Number and percentage of cases of children with 2 nd indicated report within 12 months of reunification	Report under development			

Summary: We noted that several cases reviewed did have prior CPS history, either of unfounded reports, active agency involvement, or not accepted at referral. These reports were generally years apart and not within close proximity of each other.

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**Outcome 11: Limit the Number of Abused and/or Neglected Children
Entering Foster Care to Those Who are Truly Endangered in
Their Home**

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Number and percentage of children court ordered into placement	84	67.74%	4090	81.91%
Number and percentage of children placed informally (with relatives)	11	8.80%	364	7.29%
Number and percentage of treatment cases closed with risk reduced and treatment goals achieved (i.e. parents' and children's physical/mental health and safety improved)	4	2.86%	443	8.54%

Summary: Oconee DSS used Safety Plans extensively to ensure children's safety while in their own homes or when placed with relatives. Case closures were planned as a rule in Oconee County with input from Service Providers.

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Outcome 12: Minimize Intrusion upon the Lives of Families and Children

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Number and percentage of children and families, when asked, indicate/feel that the agency intruded in their lives:	In the client interviews conducted, all interviewees felt the involvement of the agency was an not an intrusion into their lives.			
Where services are provided (community based)	Interviews and case record reviews indicated the provision of services were often available in the area. Some services offered in other local communities (Greenville/Spartanburg/Lexington areas)			
How we deliver services (mutual planning)	In client interviews and in case record reviews, mutual planning was not occurring in CPS Treatment cases.			
When services are provided (convenient hours)	Most interviews reported that it was possible to arrange convenient times for service to be provided.			
How clients were treated (respect and dignity)	Foster Care clients interviewed reported that they were involved in planning, and treated with respect.			
Number of days/weeks from achievement of treatment goals to case closure in treatment cases	Report under development			

Summary: There is feedback from other agencies in some cases but not all. The lack of client involvement in CPS Treatment case planning can be a barrier to the achievement of this outcome.

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Outcome 13: Increase Supply of Foster Home Placement Slots

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Number of licensed foster home placement slots	127	100%	1695	100%
Kinship care	Report under development			
Placements that fit	Report under development			
Close to home	Report under development			

Summary: Oconee DSS has procedures in place to improve support to foster parents and to determine appropriate placements for children.

Outcome 14: Increase Number of Adoptions

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Number of adoptions finalized	0	N/A	293	49.06%

Summary: Report under development

Outcome 15: Reduce Number of Disrupted Adoptions

Measure	County		State	
	#	%	#	%
Number of adoptions disrupted within 12 months of finalization	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Summary: No report available with this information.